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NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(HOFORN IN SLANTS. REMAINING INFO REARRANGEABLE TO LIAISON.)

1. SPAIN-AFRICA: THE 18 DEC PLEBISCITE ON LOCAL AUTONOMY IN SPANISH EQUATORIAL AFRICA WILL PROVIDE NO MORE THAN A BEGINNING STEP TOWARD AUTONOMY FOR FERNANDO POO AND RIO NUNI. IT MAY HEAD OFF ATTACKS IN THE UN ON SPAIN'S COLONIAL POLICY, BUT THE ABSENCE OF LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR REAL POLITICAL AUTONOMY COULD FOSTER AGITATION BY NATIVE NATIONALIST ELEMENTS WHO HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE SINCE LAST SUMMER. SEVERAL HUNDRED WHO WERE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM EXILE IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLEBISCITE IN THE HOPE OF ASSUMING POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE UNDER THE PROMISED AUTONOMY. (CONF)

2. NATO: //BRITAIN'S POSITION AT THE 10 DEC MEETING OF THE NATO ECONOMIC ADVISERS APPARENTLY KILLS ANY PROSPECT THAT AGREEMENT ON A COMMON CREDIT POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET BLOC CAN BE ACHIEVED AT THE

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-PAGE TWO-

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16 DEC NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING. THE US REFUSED TO AGREE EVEN TO AN INTERIM PROPOSAL THAT PRIOR NOTIFICATION BE GIVEN TO NATO BEFORE CREDIT GUARANTEES RUNNING FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS ARE GRANTED. //

3. GREECE: FOREIGN MIN. (MR. KEMANLIS) ARREST RESIGNATION AS LEADER OF THE NATIONAL RADICAL UNION AND HIS SIMULTANEOUS DEPARTURE FROM GREECE EARLY THIS WEEK HAVE IMPROVED PREMIER PAPANDREOU'S PROSPECTS FOR WINNING THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE SCHEDULED FOR 18 DEC.

ENOUGH KEM DEPUTIES MAY ^{NOW} DEFECT TO THE CENTER UNION GOVERNMENT TO GIVE IT A MAJORITY. IF PAPANDREOU IS CONVINCED THAT SUCH DEFECTORS WOULD WORK SINCERELY FOR THE CENTER UNION GOVERNMENT, HE MIGHT DROP HIS DEMANDS FOR EARLY NEW ELECTIONS. IF NOT, HE MAY PRESS FOR ELECTIONS IN THE HOPE OF WINNING A SECURE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY OF HIS OWN.

THE ERK HAS CHOSEN FORMER VICE PREMIER KANELLOPOULOS AS ITS NEW LEADER, BUT WITH THE PARTY IN OPPOSITION AND WITH ITS FOUNDER OUT OF THE COUNTRY, IT MAY EVENTUALLY FRAGMENT. (CONF)

4. MIDDLE EAST OIL: //THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC) AND THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES HAS COMPLICATED THE SITUATION. //

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//LAST WEEK OPEC TURNED DOWN AN OFFER BY THE COMPANIES TO GO PART WAY TOWARD MEETING OPEC DEMANDS FOR HIGHER ROYALTIES. THE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY GIVEN THIS ACTION HAS MADE COMPROMISE FAR MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT HAD BEEN. ~~IRAN, WHICH DESIRES A MODERATE LINE IT HAD BEEN,~~ IRAN, WHICH DESIRES A MODERATE LINE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, IS INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO DISSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE LESS FLEXIBLE POSITION OF THE OTHER OPEC MEMBERS.//

//OPEC IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, ON 24 DEC. THE MEETING IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNITED ACTION BY OPEC MEMBER COUNTRIES AGAINST THE COMPANIES.// (CONF)

5. TURKEY-USSR: CONSTRUCTION OF A SOVIET PROPOSED DAM ON THE TURKISH-SOVIET BORDER HAS BEEN DELAYED PENDING AERIAL SURVEY. THE TURKS INSIST AERIAL SURVEY IS NECESSARY FOR THE PREPARATION OF NEW MAPS TO BE USED IN PLANNING FOR THE DAM AND THE RELATED IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

TURKISH OFFICIALS CLAIM NEW DAM WILL SUPPLY IRRIGATION WATERS TO THE IGDIR PLAIN IN NORTHWEST TURKEY AND WILL FURNISH ELECTRICITY TO PREVIOUSLY UNDERDEVELOPED AND REMOTE AREA. IN WINNING TURKISH APPROVAL

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THE SOVIET TECHNICAL TEAM APPARENTLY MOORED IN THEIR COMPARISON OF
"BRIGHT" SOVIET AND "DARK" BRITISH VILLAGES.

THE PROJECT, TO BE BUILT JOINTLY UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 1927 TURCO-SOVIET WATER AGREEMENT, WAS FIRST SUGGESTED BY THE SOVIETS IN EARLY 1961. FOLLOWING TECHNICAL STUDIES, TURKEY INCLUDED THE BORDUK DAM IN ITS CURRENT FIVE YEAR PLAN AND INVITED A TEAM OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS TO COME TO TURKEY TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR THE JOINT EFFORT. EXCEPT FOR AERIAL SURVEY, AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON ALL MAJOR POINTS, DESPITE DELAY, CONSTRUCTION OF DAM WILL BE PROBABLY BEGIN IN THE SPRING.

TURKISE-SOVIET COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC MATTERS IN THE BORDER AREA WAS RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED IN THE JOINT CONSTRUCTION OF A BORDER BRIDGE THAT HAD BEEN DESTROYED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. THE NEW BRIDGE IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO TURKS EXPORTING LIVESTOCK TO THE SOVIET UNION. (CONT)

3. IRANIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REJECT THE 11 DEC SOVIET NOTE REGARDING THE AGREEMENT IN WHICH A PRIVATE IRANIAN AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND OTHER WORKS BY SOVIET FIRMS OVER IRANIAN TERRITORY.

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WILL REFLECT ITS CONVICTION THAT THE PLANE DID NOT STRAY OVER THE BORDER, AS MOSCOW CLAIMS, AND WILL ASSERT THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD THEREFORE PAY FULL DAMAGES RATHER THAN THE 50 PERCENT OFFERED. THE INCIDENT OCCURRED 20 NOV DURING STATE VISIT OF SOVIET PRESIDENT BREZHNEV. // (CONF)

7. ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: //NASIR CLAIMS THERE IS NO CHANCE OF A UNIFIED ARAB PLAN TO COUNTER ISRAEL'S PROGRAM FOR DIVERTING THE JORDAN RIVER WATERS EARLY NEXT YEAR. ARAB MILITARY CHIEFS HAVE BEEN MEETING IN CAIRO FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT THERE ARE NO REPORTS THAT THEY HAVE REACHED ANY AGREEMENT. ON 3 DEC NASIR SAID HE WAS WORRIED THAT SYRIA MIGHT ACT UNILATERALLY AND PRESENT THE OTHER ARAB STATES WITH A DILEMMA. // (CONF)

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